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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

OR NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 26 Jan. 1950

SUBJECT Production Plans of Explosives
Plants in Gnaschwitz and Schoenebeck
for 1950

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. GNASCHWITZ and SCHOENEBECK Plants, Production Schedules for 1949 and 1950:

Explosives material	1949	1950
Explosives	17 500 tons	25 800 tons
Detonators and electric fuzes	17 400 (mille)	32 400 (mille)
Percussion caps	12 000 (mille)	18 000 (mille)
Safety fuzes	22 000 (1000m)	57 600 (1000 m)

The comparatively large increase of the 1950 schedule is remarkable. This schedule includes a safety fuze production share of the SCHOENEBECK (M 53/D 78) Explosive Plant.

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Comment:

a. The former GNASCHWITZ Explosive and Safety Fuze Plant and the Limose-Explosive Plant in SCHOENEBECK were expropriated by the State in 1946 and are now assigned to the "Organa" VVB ("Vereinigung Volkseigener Betriebe" - Combined National Enterprises), Main Administration "Chemical Industry."

b. The GNASCHWITZ Plant had the following annual production capacity in 1938:

Nitro glycerine - 10,000 tons
Nitro glycol - 21,200 tons

c. The SCHOENEBECK Plant had the following annual production capacity in 1938:

Trinitrotoluol (poured weight)	- 12,000 tons
Trinitrotoluol (pressed weight)	- 144 tons
Nitro glycerine	- 540 tons
Nitro glycol	- 540 tons
Fulminating mercury	- 9 tons
Lead acid	- 10 tons
Tetracene	- 1.5 tons
Lead picrate	- 2.3 tons
Acetylene copper	- 4.4 tons

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d. According to a later report (F) the GNASCHWITZ Plant was severely damaged by an explosion in September 1949. The production of explosives therefore amounted to only 6.4 tons for the period from 10 to 20 September, compared with 280 tons during the same period in August. The safety fuze department was not damaged in this disaster and therefore continued the former rate of production.

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